

Beyond Weeds: Expanding Federal, State and Local Partnerships To Combat Invasive Species

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Goal three:

- Explore broadening the existing national, state and local frameworks for noxious weeds to support partnerships for battling all invasive species.

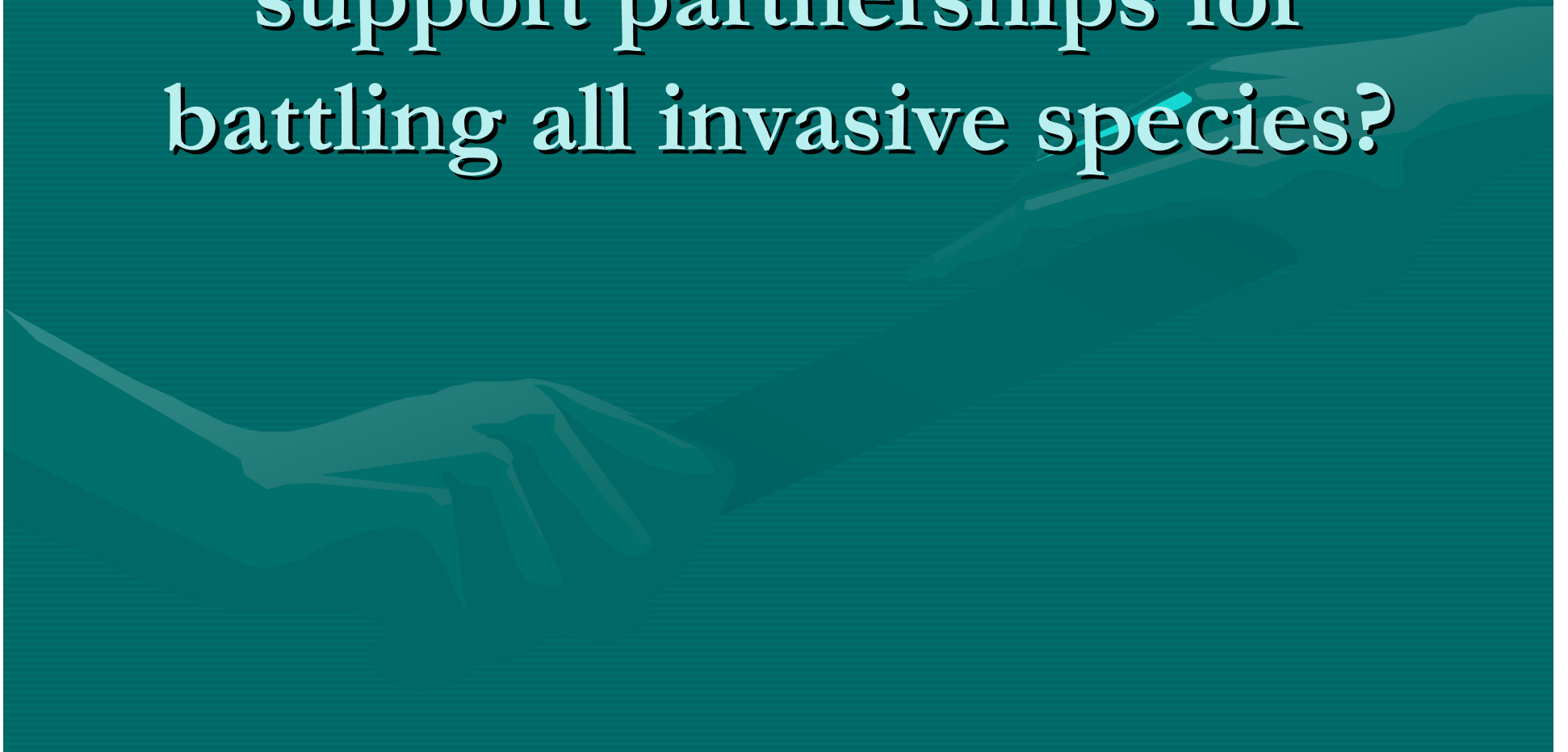
Existing Framework

- Similar at all three scales: National, State and Local
- Framework philosophy ingredients:
 - Mutually agreed to Goal/Cause → Threat
 - Mutually agreed that independent efforts are futile
 - Mutually agreed that no one is perfect and there will be NO FINGER POINTING!

Noxious Weed Partnership: Framework Components

- Diverse Membership and operating authorities
- Diverse Funding and Skills
- Focused Education and Awareness Campaign
- Extremely positive – “Can Do Attitude”, results oriented!

How do we broaden the
noxious weed framework to
support partnerships for
battling all invasive species?



Some Thoughts

- Identifying the mutual threat by invasives (fish/insect/disease/etc), will help to identify new partners or existing partners with a stronger vested interest than before.
 - (i.e. State Fish Biologist interest in aquatic weeds and fishes. They may choose to accept a leadership role for this threat).
- Might be a nice change for them from ESA?

Thoughts (cont.)

- Approach the expansion into the Invasive Arena as a low cost assessment on a state-wide basis.
(We need to know the threat to our borders)
and give some bold examples of the threat and consequences:
 - Mad Cow Disease
 - Zebra Mussels
 - Eurasian Milfoil

Last Thought

- By all means capitalize upon the exist noxious weed partnership in your area. Avoid starting all over again. It took years to build relationships. The existing trust and mutual respect is earned over time. There is not instant version of *MUTUAL TRUST AND RESPECT*, and it is an essential ingredient!